

Amendments to and Listing of the Claims:

Please cancel claims 2-8 and 10-16, amend claims 1 and 9, and add new claims 17-22 as indicated below, wherein double brackets and strikethrough indicates deletions and underlining indicates additions.

1. (Currently amended) A stirring stick for manipulating foodstuff in combination with a blender, the combination comprising:

a blender base containing a motor;

a blender jar releasably attached to the base, the blender jar being open at a top end and closed at a bottom end;

a blade set drivingly connected to the motor, the blade set extending into the blender jar proximate the bottom end;

an elongate plunger having first and second ends, the plunger having ~~only~~ one trough-shaped cavity extending between the first and second ends ~~such that at least a portion of the plunger is generally trough-shaped, the cavity having first and second non-parallel side edges, the cavity being open at least at the second end, between the first and second side edges to form a tapered opening extending from the first end to the second end forming an opening extending in a direction parallel to a longitudinal axis of the plunger, the opening and cavity forming a continuous flow channel from the first end to the second end;~~ between the first and second side edges to form a tapered opening extending from the first end to the second end forming an opening extending in a direction parallel to a longitudinal axis of the plunger, the opening and cavity forming a continuous flow channel from the first end to the second end; ~~[[and]]~~

a scoop attached to the second end of the plunger, the scoop having a plunger tip forming a continuous, substantially planar, straight scraping edge separate from and extending beyond the first and second side edges;

a handle attached to the first end of the plunger, ~~such that a user may move the stirring stick in one or more directions when the stirring stick is positioned in the blender~~ the handle including a generally disc-shaped collar connected to the first end of the plunger, a constant diameter cylindrically shaped portion connected to the collar, and a top portion having a semi-spherically shaped dome and a substantially planar base, the top portion being connected to the cylindrical portion at the base.

2. – 8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently amended) A blender for blending foodstuff comprising:

a base containing a motor;

a blender jar releasably attached to the base, the blender jar being open at a top end and closed at a bottom end;

a blade set drivingly connected to the motor, the blade set extending into the blender jar proximate the bottom end;

a lid covering a substantial portion of the top end of the blender jar, the lid having an opening extending therethrough, ; and

a stirring stick extending capable of being installed through the opening in the lid and into the blender jar from the top end, wherein the stirring stick comprises:

an elongate plunger having first and second ends, the plunger having ~~only one trough-shaped cavity extending between the first and second ends such that at least a portion of the plunger is generally trough-shaped, the cavity having first and second non-parallel side edges, the cavity being open at least at the second end, between the first and second side edges to form a tapered opening extending from the first end to the second end forming an opening extending in a direction parallel to a longitudinal axis of the plunger, the opening and cavity forming a continuous flow channel from the first end to the second end; [[and]]~~

a scoop attached to the second end of the plunger, the scoop having a plunger tip forming a continuous, substantially planar, straight scraping edge separate from and extending beyond the first and second side edges;

a handle attached to the first end of the plunger, such that a user may move the stirring stick in one or more directions when the stirring stick is positioned in the blender the handle including a generally frustoconically-shaped collar connected to the first end of the plunger, and a top portion having a plurality of external ribs, the top portion being connected to the collar.

10.-16. (Cancelled)

17. (New) The stirring stick of claim 1, wherein the collar has an outer diameter which is larger than a maximum outer diameter of the plunger.

18. (New) The stirring stick of claim 1, wherein the collar has an outer diameter which is larger than an outer diameter of the cylindrically shaped portion.

19. (New) The stirring stick of claim 1, wherein the collar has an outer diameter which is larger than a maximum outer diameter of the semi-spherically shaped dome.

20. (New) The blender of claim 9, wherein the collar includes a substantially planar base, and the top portion is connected to the base.

21. (New) The blender of claim 9, wherein the collar has a maximum outer diameter which is larger than a maximum outer diameter of the plunger.

22. (New) The blender of claim 9, wherein the collar has a maximum outer diameter which is larger than a maximum outer diameter of the top portion.